

GRAUSTARK

#277 1971BG, 1971EB, 1971EC, 1971ES, 1972A, 1972E, 1972G 4 November 1972

1971EE

"Fall 1908"

ENGLISH EVACUATE LOW COUNTRIES

Following "Spring 1908" moves, England retreated F Mid-Nat. All players were informed.

ENGLAND (Trtck): F Nat-Mid; F Don-Ska; F Nrg-Mny; A Lon-Brc; F Eng-C; A Lon-Brc; A Hol-Yor; F Nth C A Hol-Yor; A Ruh-Bur.

FRANCE (Hendry): F Por holds.

GERMANY (Tessor): A Par S ENGLISH A Lon-Pic.

ITALY (Horton): A Bre-Par; F Mid-Brc; F Wes-Mid; F Spa(S.C.) & F Nth S F Wes-Mid; A Mar-Gas; A Pic-Mar; F Gra holds; F Lvc-Lor.

RUSSIA (P. Wood): F Bal-Don; A SWC & A Kie S F Bal-Don; A St.P-Nwy; F Bar & A Fin S A St.P-Nwy; A Bor S A Kie; A Mun-Ruh; A Gal-Sil; A Bur S ITALIAN A Bro-Par; F Bla-Con; A Ank S F Bla-Con.

TURKEY (Drakert): F Smy holds.

The High Contingent Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Bel, Edi, Hol, Liv, Lon. (5)

FRANCE: Por. (1)

GERMANY: Par. (1)

ITALY: Bre, Gra, Mar, Nap, Rom, Scr, Spa, Tri, Tun, Ven. (10)

RUSSIA: Ank, Bor, Bud, Bul, Con, Den, Ki, Mos, Mun, Nwy, Rum, St.P, Scr, Swe, Vic, War. (16)

TURKEY: Smy. (1)

Russia may build four new units, and Italy may build one. England must remove three units. The deadline for these "Winter 1908" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER 1972. A press release appears on p. 4.

NOTE: Owing to the end of 1972G, the following subscriptions expire: Atteberry, De Jonghe, Doversaux, Underwood, Warren. Blandin's subscription ends with #278.

1972G

"Fall 1907"

RUSSIANS BREAK TURKISH FRONT, WIN WAR!
ENGLAND (Lipton): F Nrg-Rwy; F Nth S F Nrg-Rwy; F Lon S F Nth.

FRANCE (Warren): F Mid-Por; A Por-Spa; A Bur-Ruh; A Pic-Bur; A Par-Gas.

GERMANY (Ayres): A Ruh-Hol; A Bol S A Ruh-Hol.

ITALY (Childers): No moves received.
F Lon, A Pic, & F Nap held; A Ven dislodged and annihilated.

RUSSIA (Atteberry): F Nwy holds; F St, P(m.c.) S E Nwy; F Bul(c.n.)-Con; A Arm-Ank; F Bla S A Arm-Ank; A Syr-Smy; A Ser-Grc; A Alt S A Ser-Grc; A Tyr-Ven; A Tri S A Tyr-Ven; A Boh S A Mun; A Bor-Kie; A Mun S A Bor-Kie; A Dan S A Bor-Kie; F Hol-Nth.

TURKEY (Blandin): A Ank-Con; F Log S A Ank-Con; A Sey-Arm; A Gra-Bul.

Underlined moves are not possible. Russia retreats F Hol-Hol, and the Turkish A Gra is annihilated. The High Contingent Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Edi, Liv, Lon. (3)

FRANCE: Bre, Mar, Par, Por, Spa. (5)

GERMANY: Bel, Hol. (2)

ITALY: Nap, Rom, Tun. (3)

RUSSIA: Ank, Bor, Bud, Bul, Con, Den, Ki, Mos, Mun, Nwy, Rum, St.P, Scr, Scr, Smy, Swe, Tri, Ven, Vic, War. (20)

TURKEY: Con (1)

With this move Russia now has a majority of the supply centers, which under the 1971 rules makes William Atteberry the winner. A roster and supply center chart for this game will appear in the next issue. Any player who would like to write an analysis of the game should send in his comments. A press release appears on p. 4. Players should check to see if they will continue to receive GRAUSTARK after the end of this game.

1971EB

"Fall 1908"

SMALLER POWERS STRIKE BACK!

In the report of "Spring 1908" moves in GRAUSTARK #276, the player for France was incorrectly listed as Steve Nozik. He is actually playing France in 1971EC; the player for France in this game is Ted Holcombe. As of 10 November his address will be "c/o Mr. & Mrs. Dave Foulkes, 325 Ramona Ave., Piedmont, Calif. 94611". Soon he will leave for a year in the US Occupation Zone of Korea. Players will be kept posted of his changes of address.

The English move of F Bot in the last issue should of course have been "F Bot-St.P(s.c.)". Following "Spring 1908" moves, Russia retreated "A Mos-Ukr". All players were informed.

ENGLAND (Birsan): F NAT-Mid; F Eng S P NAT-Mid; F Iri. & F Bol S F Eng; F Hol & F Nth S F Bol; A Kie-Mun; F Bal-Kie; A Bor S F Bal-Bor [sic]; F St.P(s.c.) holds; A Mos S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN A Rum-Sov.

FRANCE (Holcombe): F Mid S F Bro; F Bro & F Wes S F Mid; A Bur S.A Pic; A Pic S F Bro; A Ruh S.A Mun; A Mun S A Ruh; F Ion-Gro; A Tyr-Ven.

ITALY (Brooks): A Ven-Rom; F Con-Ank; F Aeg holds.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Drakert): A Boh S ENGLISH A Kie-Mun; A Vic-Tyr; A Tri-Ven; A War S ENGLISH A Mos; A Bud S A Rum; A Gre & A Rum S F Bul [s.c.]; F Bul(s.c.) S A Gre.

RUSSIA (O'Neill): A Ukr-Rum; A Sov & F Bla S A Ukr-Rum.

Underlined moves are not possible. Austria-Hungary must retreat A Rum-Ser or remove that unit. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Bol, Ber, Den, Edi, Hol, **ITALY**: Ank, Con, Rom, Smy, Ven. (5)
Kie, Liv, Len, Mos, Nwy, St.P, **AUSTRIA-HUNGARY**: Bud, Bul, Gro, Ser, Swe. (12) **Tri, Vic, War.** (?)

FRANCE: Bro, Mar, Mun, Nap, Par, **RUSSIA**: Rum, Sov. (2)
Por, Spa, Tun. (8)

England and Italy may each build one new unit, and France, Russia, and Austria-Hungary must each remove one unit. The deadline for these "Winter 1908" moves, which may be made conditional on the fate of the dislodged Austro-Hungarian unit, is NOON, SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER 1972.

1972E

"Fall 1907"

PARIS LIBERATED, GERMANS EXTERMINATED

Following "Spring" moves, Austria-Hungary retreated A War-Pru. All players were informed.

ENGLAND (Abbott): A St.P-Mos; F Nwy-St.P; A Ber & F Eng hold; F Kie S A Ber; F Hol S F Kie; F Dun-Bal; A Bol S FRENCH A Par-Bur; F Tun-Ion; F Tyr S F Tun-Ion; F Wes S F Tyr.

FRANCE (Lipson): A Gas-Bur; A Par S A Gas-Bur; F Lyo-Mar; A Pic-Mar.

GERMANY (Ayres): A Sil-Ber; A Mun S A Sil-Ber; A Bur-Mar.

ITALY (Ricci): A Rom S F Nap; F Nap S A Rom.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Prosnitz): A Pru-Sil; A Gal-Rum; A Boh-Mun, A Tyr S A Boh-Mun; A Ven S TURKISH F Apu; A Tri S A Ven; F Gre S TURKISH F Ion.

TURKEY (Osmanson): No moves received. A Mos, A War, A Arm, F Aeg, F Ion, F Adr, & F Apu hold.

Underlined moves are not possible. The German A Bur & A Mun are dislodged. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Bel, Bor, Den, Edi, Hol,
Kie, Liv, Lon, Nwy, St. P, Swe,
Tun. (12)

FRANCE: Bre, Mar, Par, Por, Spa. (5)

ITALY: Nap, Rom. (2)

England, Franco, and Austria-Hungary may each build one new unit. Since Germany has lost its last supply center, all German units are removed. The deadline for "Winter 1907" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER 1972.

1971EC

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Bud, Gre, Mun, Sor.

Rum, Tri, Ven, Vie. (8)

TURKEY: Ank, Bul, Con, Mos, Sov,

Smy, Rum. (?)

"Fall 1908"

MOSCOW FALLS TO ENGLISH

Following "Spring" moves England retreated F Ion-Adr and Russia re-treated A Gal-Rum. All players were informed.

ENGLAND (Lipton): F Mid-Spa(s.c.); A Mar & A Gas S F Mid-Spa(s.c.); F Eng-Mid; F Nrg-Nth; A St.P-Mos; F Tun S F Wes; F Wes S Tun; F Adr S GERMAN A Pie-Ven.

FRANCE (Nozik): No moves received. A For holds; A Spa dislodged and annihilated.

GERMANY (Berman): A Bar S ENGLISH A Mar; A Pie-Ven; A Tus S A Pie-Ven; A Mun-Tyr; A Gal-Ukr; A War S A Gal-Ukr; A Sil-Gal; F Bor-Kie.

ITALY (Warden): A Ven-Rom; F Nap-Rom; F Ion-Adr; F Tyr-Tus; F Lyc S F Tyr-Tus; A Gre & A Smy hold.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Bell): A Vie-Tri; A Tyr-Boh; A Bud-Gal; F Aeg holds.

RUSSIA (Barents): A Mos-Liv; A Ukr-Wars; A Rum S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN A Bud-Gal.

Underlined moves are not possible. The German A Tus is annihilated, and Russia must retreat A Ukr-Sev or remove this unit. The direction of this retreat should come in with the "Winter 1908" moves, which may be made conditional upon it.

The High Combatant Powers control the same supply centers as were listed in GRAUSTARK #274, except that England has acquired Moscow from Russia and Spain from France. England may build two new units, and Germany and Austria-Hungary may each build one. Russia must remove one unit. The deadline for these "Winter 1908" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER 1972.

HERETHEREANDEVERYWHERE (SOMEWHERE): Between the outer and inner crusts of the earth, there is a place known as middle earth. In this area of the earth people are one big happy family. Unlike their cousins below them, they are not animals, but humans, in one form or another. Thus we have a happy situation, or so it was until recently.

The people of Middle Earth do not take kindly to people warring on their territory. Thus, they have for both sides some ideas that they are going to put into effect. First traffic signs are being placed through out all three worlds such that Robert of Abalone may find his way to the phillies house of cats, or is horses, it is spiders, that the house has so many of, Black Widows, I believe.

For our harry friends at the bottom of all this we are sending barbers, and doorkeepers, so they do not smell the place up to high heavens. You see we will all end up there soon enough, why go any sooner?

Also the herbits of Middles Firth plan to throw a party for The King of Hash, Mr. Spam. Hasha Hasha, or is it Hisha Hasha, anyway he is invited. It will be a gayla celebration for oh and all.

POLLUTIDAR (URRP): A squad of Cave Men got lost in the tunnel to the Outer Crust, and it is believed that they have discovered a new region midway between here and there. So far all they have found is a small passageway down which someone shouts from time to time, "Frito Lives!"

1972A

"Spring 1907"

ENGLISH IMPORT GERMAN ALLIES

ENGLAND (Lipson): F NAT-Mid; F Bel-Pic; F Nth S GERMAN A Hol-Edi.

FRANCE (Powell): F Lon-Yor; F Eng-Wal; F NAf-Tun; F Tyr S F NAf-Tun; A Mar-Spa.

GERMANY (Huddleston): A Hol-Edi; A Kie-Ruh; F Hol-Hol; A Pru-Sil; A Sws-Fin; F Bal-Den; F Bet-Swe.ITALY (Tretick): A Nap holds; F Tun-Tyr; F Wes-Lyo.AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Honig): A Bud-Ser; A Tri S A Bud-Ser; A Von S A Tri; A Vie-Gal.RUSSIA (De Frisco): A Nwy holds; F St.P(n.c.)-Bar; A Liv-War; A Mos-St.P; A War-Sil; A Sov-Ukr; A Ser S TURKISH F Alb-Tri.TURKEY (Murray): A Ukr-Gal; A Rum-Bud; F Alb-Tri; F Adr S F Alb-Tri; F Ion-Apu.

Underlined moves are not possible. Italy must retreat F Tun-Wes or F Tun-Ion, or remove the fleet. The direction of this retreat should be sent in by return mail, and other players will be informed. The deadline for "Fall 1907" moves, which may be made conditional on the direction of the Italian retreat, is NOON, SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER 1972.

1971BG

"Winter 1905"

LATIN IN FOR TURPIN

In accordance with the house rules, Payton Turpin, having missed 2 consecutive seasons of play, is removed by the Gamesmaster. Howard Latin, the original French player, resumes command of Franco. His address appears in the mailing list on p. 8, with the ZIP code 94703.

Following "Fall 1905" moves France retreated F Mid-Por.

GERMANY (Schleicher): Builds A Ber, A Kie.

RUSSIA (Phillips): Builds F Sov.

TURKEY (Nierenberg): Builds F Con, A Smy.

The deadline for "Spring 1906" moves remains 6 PM, MONDAY 13 NOVEMBER 1972.

1972G - PRESS RELEASE

KNOSSOS: The Turkish Foreign Minister had gone to consult the Oracle at Delphi. Imagine his surprise when he also discovered a crowd of Ambassadors from England, France, Germany, and Italy there. The Foreign Minister was irate and wanted to know why Germany, France, and England had been unable to cooperate on an invasion of Scandinavia. But it seems that the Ambassadors had already asked the Oracle the same question. "Well, what was the answer?"

The Ambassadors chorused that the Oracle had replied, "Who knows what lurks in the hearts of men? Do Shadow know. HE HE HE." "And he lives in Ohio!"

1971EE - PRESS RELEASE

TURIN: The now Italian undersca fleet, though badly mauled by a school of amorous whales, returned to the coastal waters off Piedmont to be refitted for another try at a direct assault on London. Except for one undersea ship that was found to be pregnant, the fleet set out at dawn Tuesday for London. Staying underwater most of the time they lost their bearings and when they surfaced they found they were in Lake Lucerne. No one could explain this curious navigation but then no one could explain that pregnant submarine either.

GEOGRAPHICAL DIRECTORY

In this directory, GRAUSTARK readers are listed numerically by their postal ZIP codes. This enables Diplomacy players in each other's geographical neighborhoods to get in touch with each other for over-the-board games.

Following each player's name is the "Boardman Number" of his game, with the initial of his country if he is still an active player in it. ("S" indicates a stand-by player; no country initial means that the player has been eliminated from the game.) Paid subscribers are indicated by the number of the issue with which the subscription expires. "T" indicates a trade copy, and "c" a complimentary copy.

Following the list of US readers, Canadian readers are listed from east to west, and their overseas readers alphabetically by country.

Douglas E. Wober (278), Box 1210, Station 2, Amherst, Mass. 01002

David King (1972E), P. O. Box 86, Danvers, Mass. 01923

John Hendry (1971EE-P-S), 17 Price Road, Peabody, Mass. 01960

John R. Moot (c), Games Research Inc., 48 Warcham St., Boston, Mass. 02118

David G. Crossoy (278), Apt. 22, 1140 Commonwealth Ave., Allston, Mass. 02134

Greg Groer (294), Winthrop E-41, Cambridge, Mass. 02138

Donald Frr (1971EG), 315 Alnwick Brook Parkway, Somerville, Mass. 02144
617-776-6905

Chris Pearson (303), Lands End Inn, 22 Commercial St., Provincetown, Mass. 02657

Mark W. Murray (1972A-T), Box 1706, Holy Cross College, Worcester, Mass. 01610; home address 12 Shawomet Ave., Warwick, R. I. 02889I 401-737-6054

Charice Walsh (T), Box 3197, Brown University, Providence, R. I. 02912

Doug Schaefer (T), 84 Farm View Road, Guilford, Conn. 06437

Andrew J. Moell (281), 1892 Yale Station, New Haven, Conn. 06520

Mike Wisc (281), 12 Soundview Dr., Stamford, Conn. 06902

Mark A. Thomas (322, 1971EB-S), 470 Johnston Dr., Watchung, N. J. 07060
201-755-4458

David Kristol (279), 20, 25 Manor Dr., Newark, N. J. 07106

Brian Burley (1971BG-I), 38 N. Main St., Hackettstown, N. J. 07840
201-852-2282

Robert E. Johnson (T), Box 134, Whippoor, N. J. 07981

Don McCormick (1972E), 44 Evans Dr., Cranbury, N. J. 08512

Lawrence A. Moran (281), 400-A Doveroux St., Princeton, N. J. 08540

Donald Berman (1971BG-A, 1971EG-G), 22 Mabalinge Road, Old Bridge, N. J.
08857I 201-679-4514

LTC Charles R. West (1971EE+16), 575-36-9590, 130 STA HOSP, AFM New York,
N. Y. 09102

Ens. Steve Malone, USNR (1972E), Box 2, Comfairkoflavl, Keflavik, Iceland. FPO New York, N. Y. 09571

Victor Ricci (1972E-I), 99 St. Mark's Pl., New York, N. Y. 10009; 212-533-0262

Perry Silberman (1971EE), 311 E. 23rd St., New York, N. Y. 10010

Strategy & Tactics (T), 44 E. 23rd St., New York, N. Y. 10010; 212-672-4103

Margot Adler (282), c/o WEAL, 359 E. 62nd St., New York, N. Y. 10021

Jean M. Bushara (c), Apt. 1021, 145 W. 66th St., New York, N. Y. 10023
212-724-4352

Charles Hidalgo (299), House of Games, 143 W. 72nd St., New York, N. Y.
10023

Richard Miller (279), 350 Central Park West, New York, N. Y. 10023; 212-
214-9739

Robert E. Warren (1972G-F), Apt. 18A, 560 Riverside Dr., New York, N. Y. 10027
 John O'Neill (1971EB-R+15), 3287 Campbell Dr., Bronx, N. Y. 10465; 212-SY 2-4481
 Sam Niorenborg (1971BG+10), 117 W. 197th St., Bronx, N. Y. 10468; 212-549-6260
 William Drakert (1971EB-A; 1971EE-T), 159 Chelsea Rd., White Plains, N. Y. 10603; 914-592-5009
 George Schelz (285), 9 Buffington Pl., Bronxville, N. Y. 10708; 914-PE 8-4318
 Joseph C. Alfonito (1972A), 43 Cherry Ave., New Rochelle, N. Y. 10801; 914-632-1837
 Eugene Freznitz (1972E-A+20), 200 Clinton St., Brooklyn, N. Y. 11201; 212-UL 5-0089
 Peter Comber (309), 980 E. 45th St., Brooklyn, N. Y. 11203; 212-693-3527
 John Boardman, 234 E. 19th St., Brooklyn, N. Y. 11226; 212-693-1579
 Gary Tesser (1971EF-C+6), 2455 Haring St., Brooklyn, N. Y. 11235; 212-NI 6-4445
 Michael Horng (1972A-A), 101-11 Avenue M, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11236; 212-241-3926
 Robert Maloney (282), 33-46 92nd St., Jackson Heights, N. Y. 11372
 Jerry Paulson (282), 63-60 98th St., Rego Park, N. Y. 11374
 Robert L. Eisen (281), 83-35 116th St., Kew Gardens, N. Y. 11415
 Kenneth Borocki (T), Box 225, Rockville Centre, N. Y. 11571
 Kenneth Scher (295), 3119 Mott Ave., Far Rockaway, N. Y. 11691; 212-327-1537
 John P. McKeon (282), 88-00 Shore Front Parkway, Rockaway, N. Y. 11693
 Dwight Hall (278), 265 E. Main St., Smithtown, N. Y. 11787
 George Wells (278), 24 River Ave., Riverhead, N. Y. 11901
 Edi Birsan (1971EB-B+12, T), c/o Pat Verteramo, RD 5 Box 6, Bridge St., Hopewell Junction, N. Y. 12533
 James Massar (T), 127 N. Emmons St., Dannemora, N. Y. 12929
 Sherry Heap (c), 1911½ Riverview Dr., Endicott, N. Y. 13760
 Stephen Marsland (296), 78 Concourse St., Greece, N. Y. 13778
 Earl Hodin (1971BG+20), c/o Blaine Mischol, 270 Greenhaven Terrace, Tonawanda, N. Y. 14215
 Douglas Reif (284), 67 Grosvenor Rd., Kenmore, N. Y. 14223
 Bern Schwartz, (282), Box 1104, Hobart College, Genova, N. Y. 14456
 Steven R. Nozik (1971EE-F), 356 Kimberly Dr., Rochester, N. Y. 14610
 John Carroll (308), 133 Atherton Hall, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Penn. 16802
 John Boyer (T), 117 Garland Dr., Carlisle, Penn. 17013
 Robert Bryan Lipton (1971EC-E; 1972G-E+20), McKee Hill, Box 360, Lafayette College, Easton, Penn. 18042; home address: 556 Green Place, Woodmere, N. Y. 11598
 Gregory A. Warden (1971EC-I, T), Dept. of Classical & Near Eastern Archaeology, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Penn. 19010
 John De Prisco (1972A-R), Box 502, Manor Branch, New Castle, Del. 19720
 Michael Stroz (1972A), 106 W. Roosevelt Ave., New Castle, Del. 19720
 Jim Reilly (275), Box 1499, Hoyt Station, Georgetown University, Washington, D. C. 20007
 Maj. Elliot S. Lipson (1972A-E, 1972E-F), HQS, US Army Materiel Command, ATTN: AMCSA-BC, Washington, D. C. 20315
 Ens. R. J. De Jonghe (1972G), Apt. 105, 1 Susan Lane, Lexington Park, Md. 20653
 Buddy Trotick (1972A-I), 11710 Coldstream Dr., Potomac, Md. 20854; 301-299-7881
 Donald L. Miller (T), 12315 Judson Rd., Wheaton, Md. 20906

Ted Pauls (c), 821 E. 33rd St., Baltimore, Md. 21212
 Terry Kuch (c), 8419 Ivywood Road, Vienna, Va. 22180
 Steve Cooper (278), P-2, 3073 S. Buchanan St., Arlington, Va. 22206
 Stephen Bell (1971EC-A, T), P. O. Box 1787, Davidson, N. C. 28036
 Peter Ansoff (T), Box 5798, Station B, Vanderbilt University, Nashville,
 Tenn. 37203
 Scott Huddleston (1972A-G), Box 4480, Station B, Vanderbilt University,
 Nashville, Tenn. 37203, 615-297-7740
 David G. Johnson (285), 3603 Rainbow Pl., Nashville, Tenn. 37204
 Tony Pandin (294), 10406 Shaker Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio 44104
 Bill Hawley (1971EB+4), 21306 Kenyon Dr., Maple Heights, Ohio 44137;
 216-662-5643
 Stan Wrobel (T), 7 Polish Village Road, Poland, Ohio 44514; 216-757-4140
 Rick Stuart (278), 903 Ellison Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio 45226
 William Atteberry (1972G-R), 3535 Cambridge Dr., Springfield, Ohio 45503
 Walter Buchanan (T), R. R. 3, Lebanon, Ind. 46052; 317-482-2824
 Chic Hilliker (283), 3312 Stoneycrest, Bloomington, Ind. 47401
 Paul J. Wood (1971EE-R+5, T), 24613 Harmon, St. Clair Shores, Mich.
 48080, 313-773-5918
 John R. Deroceaux (1972G), Apt. 112, 2529 Somerset Blvd., Troy, Mich.
 48084
 Mohran Thomson Jr. (T), 3612 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor, Mich. 48104
 Bill Abbott (1972E-E), 5018 Brookside Dr., Jackson, Mich. 49203; 517-
 629-6868
 David Hunt (1972G-T), 217 E. Front St., Adrian, Mich. 49221
 Lewis Pulsipher (T), 329 Twin Towers, Albion, Mich. 49224
 Herb Barcents (1971EC-R, T), 157 State St., Zeeland, Mich. 49464; 616-
 772-2838
 Robert van Andel (T), 749 Thomas St. SE, Grand Rapids, Mich. 49503; 616-
 452-0781
 Fred C. Winter (T), Room 18, Alpha Delta Phi House, 640 N. Henry St.,
 Madison, Wis. 53703
 Jeremiah B. Model (287), 3434 20th Ave. South, Minneapolis, Minn. 55407
 William Osmanson (1972E-T), 1015 Union St., Morris, Ill. 60450
 Joseph O. Antosik (T), 3637 Arden Ave., Brookfield, Ill. 60513
 Allan B. Calhamer (c), 501 N. Stone, La Grange Park, Ill. 60525
 Christopher Schleicher (1971BG-G, T), 5122 W. Carmen Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 60630
 Dick Trtek (1971EE-E+8), Room 212, Boubier Hall, 915 E. 53rd St., Chi-
 cago, Ill. 60637
 Larry Blandin (1972G-T-l), c/o Niemoyer, 3330 N. Lake Shore, Chicago,
 Ill. 60657
 Yale Edelken (1971EE+4), #576, 606 W. Cornelia, Chicago, Ill. 60657
 Harry Manogg (c), Box 769, Kankakee, Ill. 60901; 815-932-0024
 R. D. Christian Jr. (288), 12905 A Street, Omaha, Nebr. 68144
 Mike Gutierrez (1971EB, 1971EC), Box 22218, Louisiana State University,
 Baton Rouge, La. 70803
 John Wesley Underwood (1972G), 1001 Elm, Norman, Okla. 73111; 405-321-
 3616
 Eric Just (T), Apt. C, 1507 Lawton Ave., Lawton, Okla. 73501
 Wayne J. Lanham Jr. (311), Apt. 197, 900 W. Spring Valley, Richardson,
 Texas 75080
 SPC Philip M. Cohen (302), 187-40-4892, 375th USAFA Co (EW), Ft. Hood,
 Texas 76544
 Michael R. & Betsy Childers (1972G-T+17), Box 1201, College Station, Tex-
 as 77840; 713-846-9706
 Jim Fian (286), 3801 Millcrest Dr., El Paso, Texas 79902
 John C. Powell (1972A-F+5), 808 Lafayette St., Denver, Colo. 80218;
 303-244-6852

Robert L. Strayor (1972E), Apt. 8, 207 E. Alice Ave., Phoenix, Ariz.
85020

John F. Lawrey Jr. (T), Box 86, Salome, Ariz. 85348

Stephen Brooks (1971EB-I), Apt. 253, 6901 E. Broadway, Tucson, Ariz.
85710

Dan Goodman (c), 626 S. Alvarado, Los Angeles, Calif. 90057

Ted Holcombe (1971EB-F, T), Apt. 38, 10012 Valley Blvd., El Monte, Calif.
91731; 213-444-2989 (currently Lt. Holcombe is away from home, see
the latest GRAUSTARK for his present addresses)

Hal Naus (T), 1011 Barrett Ave., Chula Vista, Calif. 92010, 714-420-4297

Payton D. Turpin (T), Box 109, Blake Hall, University of California at
San Diego, La Jolla, Calif. 92093

Conrad von Motzko (T), Box 8342, San Diego, Calif. 92102, 714-239-1574

Rod Walker (T), 4719 Felton, San Diego, Calif. 92116, 714-282-1921

Kathryn Passonhoim (291), 5952 Castleton Dr., San Diego, Calif. 92117

Bruce Chin (282), 628 Molino Dr., Salinas, Calif. 93901

Andrew Phillips (1971BG-R, T), 128 Oliver St., Daly City, Calif. 94014

Earl & Jan Evers (c), Box 5053, Main Station, San Francisco, Calif. 94101

Brenton Ver Flug (T), #302, 520 Parker, San Francisco, Calif. 94118

George Grayson (1971EB, 1971EC+8), 247 20th Ave., San Francisco, Calif.
94121; 415-668-4982.

Larry Fong (1972E+12), Box 11090, Oakland, Calif. 94611; 415-893-5941

Howard Latin (1971BG+22), #B, 1942 Russell St., Berkeley, Calif. 94703;
415-848-3186

Donald Horton (1971EE-I), 16 Jordan Court, Sacramento, Calif. 95826;
916-383-4848

Robert J. Ward (T), Apt. 176, 8665 Florin Rd., Sacramento, Calif. 95828

Capt. Bradley W. Smith (295), Sabertooth Advisory Det. *, APO San Fran-
cisco, Calif. 96303

William C. Joffrios (282), 407-64-2398, MACS-2, C & E, FPO San Francisco,
Calif. 96602

Eric Verheiden (283), 3245 S. W. 185th St., Aloha, Ore. 97005

David Ayres (1972E-G, 1972G-G), 2214 E. 3rd, Spokane, Wash. 99202

Michael Monahan (289), 15 St. Margaret's Bay Rd., Halifax, Nova Scotia

John Loeder (278), Box 1606, Huntsville, Ontario

John Mansfield (T), Box 830, CFPO 5056, Belleville, Ontario

Derek Nelson (280), 18 Granard Blvd., Scarborough, Ontario

Ed Rack (286), Suite 208, 18 Wolsford Gardens, Don Mills, Ontario

Mark Wiedmark (T), 528 Park Crescent, Pickering, Ontario; 416-839-7841

James A. M. Ritchie (T), Box 878, Killarney, Manitoba R0K 1G0

John A. McCallum (T), Box 52, Talston, Alberta T0J 2N0

Paul Stone (T), Box 485, Parksville, B. C.

Michel Ferch (T), 7 Grand-Place, Hannut, Belgium

Michel Liegnard, Av. Evariste de Meersman 43, Borchem-Stg.-Agathe, B-1080,
Bruxelles, Belgium; 02/27-94-53

Graham Jeffery (T), 8 Rusholme Road, London SW15 3JZ, England

Hartley Patterson (T), "Finches", 7 Cambridge Rd., Beaconsfield, Bucks.,
England

John Piggott (T), Jesus College, Cambridge CB5 8BL, England

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Taftcott.

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THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

I suppose a few questions may have arisen as to how GRAUSTARK is made up and published: why two different type faces appear; how space gets apportioned among moves, press releases, letters, and miscellany; when it actually goes into the mail.

The first stencils to be cut for each issue are the letters and/or miscellany columns, unless I have the great good fortune to receive an article or a book review. These items are not dependent on receipt of letters from players, and so can be prepared in advance. If it looks as if space is going to be a problem, I run these off on my office typewriter, a Royal standard manual about 20 years old. Otherwise, or if the work week is too crowded, GRAUSTARK stencils are cut on my personal typewriter, a Sears portable manual two years old, whose type is pica rather than this elite face.

Press releases usually get into the issue at which they are aimed, unless I have decided to run a particularly long letter column that issue. In this case they are postponed, which is why you get things like 4 pages of press releases for 197IEC in GRAUSTARK #276. At present a stock of letters is building up, which means that #278 may also carry a long letter column. Defenders of Pierre Elliot Trudeau and Vatican II have arisen to contest remarks in previous miscellany columns, and they will be heard.

But usually, as with this stencil, "The Ministry of Miscellany" gets cut first - sometimes, indeed, before the previous issue goes to press. (There have been times when as many as three issues were in preparation and partially printed, all at the same time.) This makes it possible to include all kinds of squibs from the considerable range of publications which I read.

Usually at least 8 pages of a GRAUSTARK are already printed two days before the move deadline. This leaves the first 4 pages for the games. If for any game all the moves come in in advance, I cut and print the stencils for one of these pages and hope that no last-minute changes come in. (This has happened only once recently; see GRAUSTARK #272, p. 5 for details.) With any luck, I do not have to prepare and print more than 3 stencils on the actual deadline date.

Although the press run of GRAUSTARK is now 175, and I usually bring out 100 issues of FREEDOMIA on the same day, the Saturday's work has been considerably relieved of late. Partly this is due to the fact that Saturday's mail now arrives at about 12 or 1 o'clock, instead of at 3 as it did a few months ago. Mainly, however, this is due to the help furnished by three local Diplomacy and science-fiction fans: Ira Dunowitz, Mike Honig, and Gary Lesser, who drop in on Saturday afternoon and help collate and staple the 'zines. Often when Gary leaves for his job at the Post Office he takes with him a sizable bundle of GRAUSTARKs.

By 6 PM on the deadline date, GRAUSTARK and FREEDOMIA are usually in the mail - either with Gary, or in a corner mailbox down the block. (Sometimes, if printing is delayed, the copies mailed to non-players go out on Sunday.) I am informed that players generally receive their copies by the following Tuesday or Wednesday. Players who live west or south of Pennsylvania and Virginia, or in Canada, get their copies by air mail. Non-players who got both GRAUSTARK and FREEDOMIA used to receive them by 3rd-class mail, but as I remarked in the last issue this is highly problematical until the 3rd-class mail situation straightens out.

(There may be a delay with the next issue, due on 18 November. That weekend is a science-fiction convention in Philadelphia which we plan to attend. Since most games will be having "Winter" moves that weekend, I may mail out these moves to players by postcard just before we leave, and send a fuller report in GRAUSTARK the following Monday. Players should make a particular effort to get their next moves in early.)

The following publications are regularly culled for miscellany material (and also clipped for various friends to whom I have promised clippings on topics in their lines of interest): New York Times, New York Post, New York Column, Village Voice, Guardian, Liberated Guardian, Los Angeles Free Press, Los Angeles Staff, London Tribune, New Statesman, New York Daily World, Spectator, and various ACLU publications. From time to time an interesting item might also be copied out of National Lampoon, National Review, Tribune, the magazine sections of the London Times and London Observer, or anything else that may come to my attention.

The general tone of the miscellany column is, as I have frequently observed, intended to show that the missing link between the ape and civilized man is us. To this end the two principle human foibles dissected are sex and politics - rather more the latter, since the political impulse lasts long after the sexual impulse has faded out, and people are more likely to make fools of themselves in politics than in sex. If some latter-day Erasmus should be inclined to re-write In Praise of Folly, the back files of GRAUSTARK's miscellany columns are at his disposal.

This folly, I regret to say, I once shared. A decade ago I was thoroughly convinced that all the ills that flesh is heir to could be cured by the election of a sufficient number of liberal Democrats to public office at all levels. I went out and stumped a mostly black ward in Syracuse for John F. Kennedy, and I had the pleasure of watching that ward, which was 3 to 2 for Eisenhower in 1956, go 2 to 1 for Kennedy in 1960. In the following year I worked for liberal Democratic candidates for the city and county councils, and in 1962 I was active in a labor group that was backing the Democratic candidate for governor. I would have gone out and worked for Johnson in 1964, but I correctly determined that the forthcoming landslide didn't need me all that badly.

It was in the next few years that I gradually realized that the American invasion of Vietnam was entirely the creation of liberal Democrats. The Kennedy Inaugural Address turned out to be a declaration of war, and the full text came out as: "We will go any distance, bear any burden, pay any price, invade any country, blow up any house, rape any woman, kill any baby..." The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution authorizing this invasion was supported by a complete roll-call of the liberals in Congress: George McGovern, Edward Kennedy, Hubert Humphrey, Edmund Muskie, Eugene McCarthy, William Fulbright, John V. Lindsay, Don Edwards, Morris Udall, William Ryan, and everybody whom I had regarded for years as the Good Guys.

I think I may now safely say that I am cured. The mania of the 1972 campaign - which will be blessedly ended by the time you read these words - left me with the same feeling of satisfaction that must have been enjoyed by a Scotsman immune to the Darien Company enthusiasm, or a Frenchman left cold by the Mississippi Bubble. The attempts of Nixon and McGovern to represent themselves as opposed to each other on major issues has obtained in this column the ridicule that it deserves. They are rivals only in their attempts to disguise their pro-war records and present themselves as friends of peace.

Of course, the high concentration of political items in this column opens me to the accusation of "protesting too much". After all, it is hard to avoid the impression that the censor who continually attacks pornography has an obsession with the subject matter. Perhaps I have with this one. After all, I once believed that the electoral political process offered the only route to improving certain things about America which could stand improvement. Possibly I was also impressed by the colorful panoply of the campaign - the things that made politics "the only sport for adults". And at one time I took a citizen's duty seriously, before I learned that this is merely a catchphrase invoked to make us feel good about the My Lai Massacre.

What remains is a disposal to enjoy the sideshows of stupidity and idiocy that my fellow humans seem determined to put on for my amusement. If you have a sardonic sense of humor, and a strong stomach, you can get at least this much out of public life. It's a lead-pipe cinch that nobody is going to listen to any opinions you or I have on the subject.

*
As for the "truce" - well, does anyone seriously expect that it will last past Election Day? At every previous cease-fire, for holidays or the like, the press has been crammed with accusations that the Communists have violated them. These accusations, some of which are even true, are then seized upon by the US government as an excuse for not trusting any agreements with the "enemy".

There was much of this sort of thing in 1968 - cease-fires and bombing halts loudly announced in the press, with expectations that the war would soon be over. It was all a scam for the elections, just like this one.

Of course, the crowning irony would be if a few Hawks down south took

President Nixon at his word, accused him of selling out the war effort, and threw two or three states to the Wallace candidate Schmitz. With this country's luck, that would be enough to deadlock the election and set off that booby trap contained in the Twelfth Amendment to the Constitution.

Then there's the clincher - the final argument that is sprung on me in a last desperate attempt to make me vote for McGovern. "Appointees to the Supreme Court will sit for years - and with one more, Nixon will have appointed a majority of the court. Do you want that to happen? Justice Douglas's heart will give out any day now."

Yes, we all know the high standards set by Democratic appointees to the Supreme Court - the devotion to liberal principles of Byron White, the stalwart integrity of Abe Fortas, and the deep love of peace shown by Arthur Goldberg. Goldberg, according to Humphrey, would have been Humphrey's choice as President for Chief Justice. Do you remember the stirring defense of the American invasion of Vietnam which he made as Ambassador to the United Nations? Now guess how he would rule on the legality of the war.

So - at least a prediction. Thanks to the nation's media, who have been tilted so far towards Nixon that they walk in a circle, he will almost certainly be re-elected. But the turn-out will be, by percentage, the smallest since at least 1956. And McGovern will do better than the disastrous predictions now circulating. Minor party candidates will do rather well, on a plague-on-both-your-houses attitude. And no significant changes will take place in the next four years.

I'd like to see McGovern win if only to freak out all the people who have been regarding his candidacy so hysterically. But anyone who looks at the man's deeds rather than his words will see that he is merely a warmed-over Hubert Humphrey - another hypocrite come in off the Dakota prairies to thump the pulpit and charm the congregation out of their back-teeth.

We've seen lots of books with a title something like This One, but Dr. Albert Ellis' latest will probably bring the whole procession to an end. It's entitled The Saneus Parrot Critique & Corrections, and advertised as "The book that tells you what's wrong with those other books." (The Independent, Sept.-Oct. 1972)

"GRANSTARK readers should know," writes Terry Kuch, # 526 "that there is a friendly ear in the Postal Service that will listen to complaints: David Ordway, Consumer Advocate, Room 3116, US Postal Service, 12th & Pennsylvania Aves., NW, Washington, D. C. 20260." I plan to ask about the alleged suspension of 3rd-class mail, of which I was informed a few weeks ago by Jim Durmigan, publisher of Strikes & Tactics. (See GRANSTARK #276 for details, and for what I plan to do if it becomes effective.)

Diplomacy was invented by Alan B. Cathamor, and is published by Games Research Inc. of Boston, whose address appears on p. 5.

Terry Kuch also passes along the word that a Diplomacy Club has been formed by British members of Mensa, the organization for people whose IQ is in the top 2%. Postal games will be organized. Interested people should write to Mick Bullock, 14 Nursey Ave., Halifax, Yorkshire HX1 5SA, England.

Over a period of four years, the Navy spent \$375,000 in a scientific study of Prisbees to see if the flight characteristics of these

plastic toy could be adapted for warfare. But it was no go. — Now
New York Post, 24 October 1972 *

Ever since 1919, Armistice Day or Veterans' Day has been celebrated by a parade in New York City. The numbers of marchers, though, has been dropping steadily in the past few years. There were 1000 in 1970 despite a downpour. Only 500 marched in 1971, and only about 200 in 1972. This year, the entire march took only 20 minutes. There was a counter-demonstration by some 50 members of the American Servicemen's Union, composed mostly of Vietnam veterans — a class noticeably lacking in the official parade. (New York Times, 24 October 1972)

Though there have been some complaints, I feel that the new name, "Veterans' Day", is more appropriate than "Armistice Day". After all, the people who organize these parades, and make speeches at them, seem to be strongly opposed to armistices. However, they vigorously advocate policies that will produce more veterans.

The new arrangement of holidays is also quite appropriate. First there are Yom Kippur, Columbus Day, and Luif Ericsson Day for the ethnic enthusiasms. Then there is Veterans' Day for the Hawks. Then there is Hallowe'en, a holiday altogether appropriate for the political campaigning season. Then, finally, there is Election Day. And, when Election Day is over, we have Thanksgiving. *

Naturally, the astrologers have been busy with this election. But they have also been hedging their bets. In the past month I've seen two astrological analyses of the election, one in the establishment press (New York Column), and the other in the underground press (Los Angeles Staff). Both analyses gave the birth dates and horoscopes of the candidates, and outlined their characters. But neither dared to try a prediction, despite the fact that pollsters and others are unanimously calling it for Nixon.

Besides, the election won't last forever, and astrologers are now shifting to more enduring interests. In the Column of 29 October appeared a long article by Madeline Monet on "Let the Stars Help You Slim". Reducing diets are given for each sign, and the article is illustrated by a picture of a girl who has no need for a reducing diet, and is wearing nothing but The Zodiac Coloring Book. ("Leo people tend to put on weight... Taurian women are often of the real Earth mother type. It suits them to be a little plump.")

GRAUSTARK #277

John Boardman
 234 East 19th Street
 Brooklyn, N. Y. 11226
 U. S. A.

F I R S T C L A S S M A I L

"Those who, like myself,
 urge a 'win' policy in Viet-
 nam..." — Richard M. Nixon,
Reader's Digest, August 1964